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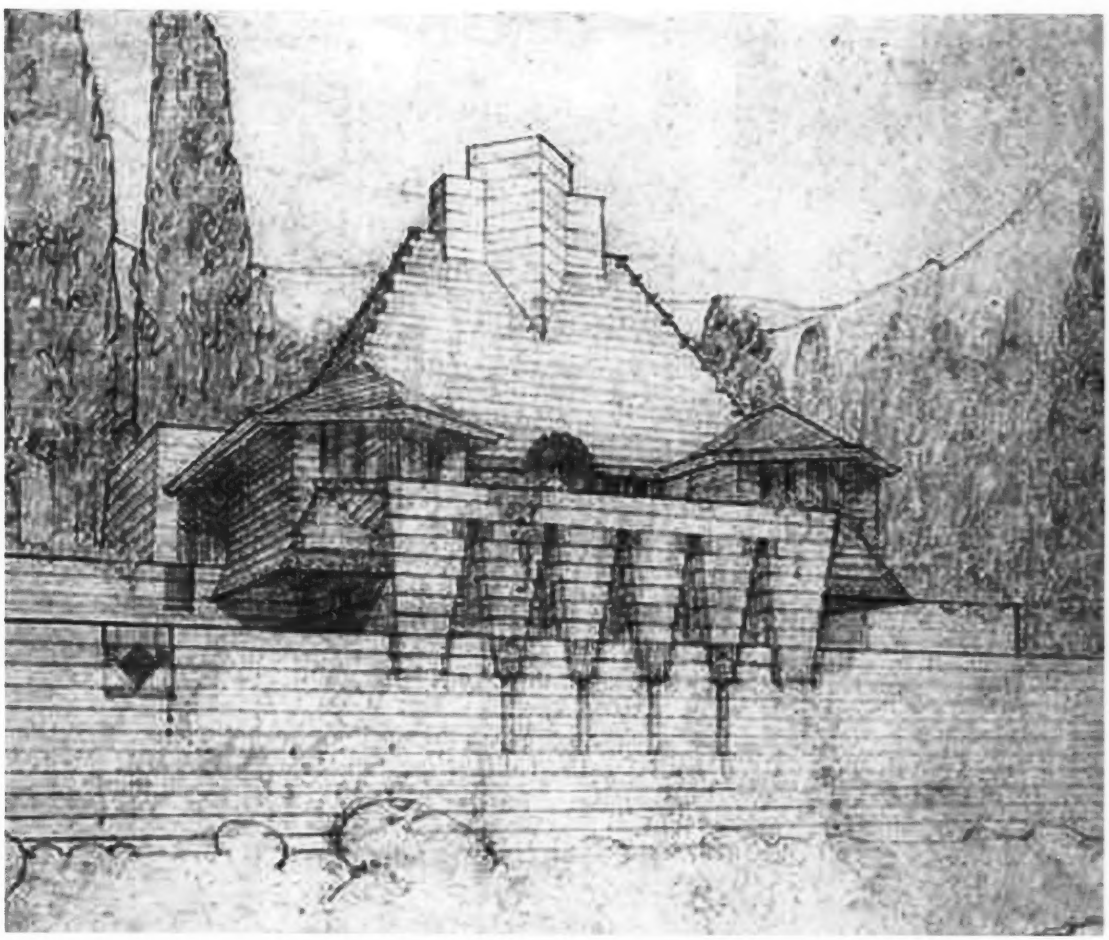

Frank Lloyd Wright's 'Designs for an American Landscape'

Library of Congress
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Vol. 55, No. 21
December 30, 1996

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: Frank Lloyd Wright's perspective and partial plan for the Shore Type Cabin in the Lake Tahoe Summer Colony, graphite and colored pencil on tracing paper, ca. 1923, The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

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The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly except in August (no issues published) and in December (one issue published) by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available over the Internet. On World Wide Web, use the following address: gopher://marvel.loc.gov/11/loc/pubs/lcib. On Gopher, connect to marvel.loc.gov and look under "Events, Facilities, Publications and Services."

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC Information Bulletin, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-1610.

GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
SHARON WINFIELD, Production

News from the National Digital Library

Time *Names American Memory 'Best' of 1996*

The American Memory historical collections, available from the National Digital Library (NDL) Program of the Library, are among "the best Web sites of 1996," according to *Time* (Dec. 23).

Calling the site a "treasure trove of memorabilia converted into easily downloadable recordings, images and text," *Time* singled out the Mathew Brady Civil War photographs, the Houdini Collection and Walt Whitman's notebooks. The Library also has been cited for its Web site's excellence by the Great American Web Site, which bills itself online as "a citizen's guide to the treasures of the U.S. government on the World Wide Web."

The Library was recognized by G.A.W.S. among the "Best Agency or Department Web Sites" category along with the sites of the Departments of State, Commerce and Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Smithsonian Institution.

In the G.A.W.S. "Ten Best Individual Web Sites" category, the Library's American Memory collections were called "the most wonderful of the Library's efforts, in a plan to digitize the greatest storehouse of knowledge in the world." American Memory took top honors in the "Best Sites to Explore U.S. History" category.

These citations are only among the most recent to be garnered by the Library for its electronic efforts. For example, the Library's Web site was among the six finalists in the Education category of the National Information Infrastructure (NII) Awards Program, one of the leading forums for the recognition of "extraordinary achievement" on the Internet (see LC *Information Bulletin*, Nov. 18).

American Memory, one of 60 finalists in 10 categories, was chosen from a field of nearly 1,000 nominees. The NII Awards Program recognizes work in 10 categories that "touch on all areas of America's work, play and community life."

American Memory (http://www.loc.gov/) is a project that aims to make freely available on the Internet millions of rare and unique Library of Congress items relating to American history. Current on-line collections include daguerreotype photographs; documents relating to slavery, the civil rights movement and women's suffrage; life histories from the Federal Writers' Project; sound recordings of political leaders; and early motion pictures of vaudeville acts, the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 and other subjects.

Library Expands Public Access To Internet in Its Reading Rooms

The Library has increased the number of public access terminals in its reading rooms that provide free access to the Internet.

In five reading rooms and the Computer Catalog Center, the Library now provides unlimited access to the Internet for all those permitted to do research in the Library.

"I am very proud of this new, expanded service at the Library of Congress," said Associate Librarian for Library Services Winston Tabb. "We have been such a world leader in the development of digital library content that it is only appropriate for us to be expanding access to digital resources in our own library."

These initial 10 stations in six locations represent the first phase of this effort. The reading rooms are Prints and Photographs in the Madison Building; Hispanic, Local History and Genealogy and Main Reading Room in the Jefferson Building; and Science in the Adams Building. The Computer Catalog Center is in the Jefferson Building.

These have been added to augment the public access workstation made available in the Madison Building's Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room in 1993.

Researchers now have access to a wide range of Internet functions and media. Said Diane Kresh, acting Director for Public Service Collections, "We are delighted that we are able to expand reading room service to our users. There is a powerful advantage for researchers being in both the digital and the artifactual library at the same time. Resource possibilities become limitless, and public service improves exponentially."

The Library has had a direct Internet connection for more than six years and has been providing Internet services for more than four years to researchers outside the institution: In 1992 an anonymous FTP site was established, and several e-mail discussion groups were created. In 1993 the Library created a Gopher service called LC MARVEL. That year also marked the release of LOCIS over the Internet. LOCIS (Library of Congress Information System) has been widely available on site for research since 1977; it comprises the complete on-line catalog and

'An Unwavering Committment'

Donald Curran Retires from Library

Donald C. Curran, who celebrated his Jan. 3, 1997, retirement at a party in his honor on Dec. 11, early exhibited the qualities that made him a leader at the Library for the past 34 years.

In 1953-57, Lt. Curran served in the U.S. Air Force as a performance engineer, flying B-36 bombers with the 6th Bomb Wing in New Mexico. Later, he served at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base as an engineering officer.

"His common sense was expressed in his ability to work, and work with people," said his commanding officer in an evaluation. Another officer described Mr. Curran as "level headed, firm, and a determined individual" with a "fine personality, promising promotional material and possessing natural leadership qualities by virtue of his personal bearing and personality."

Even more insightful was the comment of an Air Force lieutenant, who said Mr. Curran possessed "what I feel to be the necessary ingredients for the good public servant.

"Given a challenging assignment and presented with the opportunity of career development with the incentive of making a public contribution, I feel the candidate could become a very able government administrator at a high level," the officer said in an evaluation.

Donald Curran

Rising Through Ranks

Born May 26, 1933, in St. Louis, Mr. Curran attended Theodore Roosevelt High School and graduated cum laude, first in his class, from St. Louis University with a bachelor's degree in science and commerce in 1959. That year, he became a civil servant at the Bureau of Old Age and Survivor Insurance in Baltimore, where he worked as a management intern for 15 months.

In 1960 George Washington University awarded him a graduate teaching fellowship in public administration. In 1961 Mr. Curran joined the Library, where over the course of his career he served three Librarians — Quincy Mumford, Daniel Boorstin and Dr. Billington. During that time, he held many positions in many departments.

From 1961 to 1969, Mr. Curran worked as an administrative officer and a management analyst in three departments: the Legislative Reference Service; the Reference Department, which had control over all of the reading rooms; and the Administrative Department.

In 1969 the peripatetic Mr. Curran took a job as budget officer in the Budget Office, where he advanced to chief of financial management. By 1976 he had risen to the third highest position in the Library — associate librarian of Congress. In that capacity, Mr. Curran served as chairman of the Library-wide Committee on Automation Planning and directly supervised the Internal Audit Office, the Library Environment Resources Office and the Office of General Counsel.

In March 1985 he received a Superior Service Award for his work on the Library's mass deacidification facility to preserve brittle materials. In October of that year, Librarian Boorstin gave Mr. Curran another Superior Service Award — this time for "exemplary service," as acting register of copyrights.

In 1989 Dr. Billington appointed Mr. Curran acting associate librarian for constituent services, a title that became his permanently in December 1990. When the Library was reorganized in 1995, Mr. Curran assumed his last post

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many other files, including files for copyright information, federal legislation, science bibliographies, records for materials for those unable to read standard print, and selected legal citations and articles from some foreign countries. In 1994 the Library began its National Digital Library Program, whose initiatives are available on the World Wide Web at http://www.loc.gov/. Among its offerings are the American Memory historical collections and THOMAS, a congressional information service.

Although LOCIS has been available for many years to researchers in the Library's reading rooms, technical and other constraints, such as legal issues, prevented the provision of widespread access to the Library's other electronic services.

LC MARVEL, LC Web and the anonymous FTP site provide not only access to a wealth of information about the Library of Congress and its activities, but also to digital collections, various ways to search the Library's online catalog and links to numerous sites elsewhere on the Internet.

Addresses for other on-line initiatives are:

LOCIS: **telnet://locis.loc.gov** or **tn3270://locis.loc.gov**

LC MARVEL:
gopher://marvel.loc.gov

Anonymous FTP:
ftp://ftp.loc.gov

These services can also be reached through the main home page at **http://www.loc.gov/**.

Advocates for Special Collections

Stephen Ostrow and Elizabeth Parker Retire from LC

The two persons who have been mainstays of the Prints and Photographs Division with its huge collection of visual materials are retiring from the Library.

They are division Chief Stephen E. Ostrow and Assistant Chief Elisabeth Parker, who told their colleagues goodbye at a retirement party Dec. 11.

Under Mr. Ostrow's 12-year leadership, the Prints and Photographs (P&P) Division grew from a staff of 22 to 62, initiated new projects to preserve and make pictorial materials accessible, acquired important new collections and reduced a backlog of unprocessed materials by nearly 5.5 million items (41.6 percent), to 7.6 million items as of Sept. 30.

Mr. Ostrow said that as a member of the Management and Planning (MAP) committee during the late 1980s, during division chiefs' meetings, and at any other opportune time, "I argued that we needed more resources for the special-format collections, and not just in P&P. The Library was distinguished for its holdings of special materials, not just monographs and serials. They listened."

Stephen Ostrow

These special collections had been "politically weak," he said, "because you could never make the argument that by cataloging unique items (such as Civil War photographs), you were serving the needs of the nation's other libraries, as is the case with cataloging monographs."

As the result of his unrelenting advocacy for the processing, preservation and care of the Library's special-format collections, which comprise two-thirds of the Library's holdings, the Library did shift its priorities and provide the resources necessary to care for special materials, not just in P&P but throughout the divisions responsible for special-format collections.

In a July 1989 letter to Mr. Ostrow, Dr. Billington said: "Your persistence and cogency in championing the needs and importance of the special collections has had a major impact on the future of the Library of Congress. By articulating the consequences of failing to process, preserve, and make accessible the special collections, you have established a new focus and priority for the Library."

Library Establishes 'State Libraries' Home Page

A new home page from the Library provides links to state libraries, library agencies and commissions in all 50 states. The State Libraries page, which was inaugurated on Dec. 9, is accessible from the Library's main home page, available at http://www.loc.gov/. The new page is a cooperative initiative of the Library of Congress and the American Library Association (ALA) in an effort to strengthen LC's ties to the library community as well as its largest association, ALA.

"The Library of Congress is eager to simplify access to the major state libraries, library agencies and commissions with its new home page," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "Now, users have a set of links that quickly connects them to the resources of their home state and those of other states."

The Library of Congress also received cooperation from the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) in designing the page and determining appropriate sites for links.

"The input of ALA and COSLA was essential to the implementation of the State Libraries home page," said Associate Librarian for Library Services Winston Tabb. "This new page provides tangible, as well as virtual, links between the Library of Congress and the nation's libraries."

The information from state libraries supplements other state information offered by the Library of Congress home pages of the Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room (http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/ncp/ncp.html/) and the Center for the Book (http://lcweb.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/).

Mrs. Robinson Finds a Home

Librarian of Congress Names 25 Films to Film Registry

Mike Nichol's 1967 film, "The Graduate," with Dustin Hoffman and Ann Bancroft, was one of the 25 films added to the National Film Registry.

Dr. Billington announced his annual selection of 25 motion pictures to be added to the National Film Registry at a press conference on Dec. 4. For the first time, the event was carried live on the Turner Classic Movie network. This latest group of titles brings the total number of films placed on the Registry to 200.

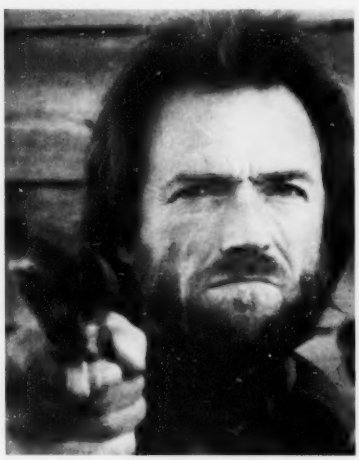
Under the terms of the National Film Preservation Act, each year the Librarian of Congress names 25 "culturally, historically or aesthetically" significant motion pictures to the registry each year. The list is designed to reflect the full breadth and diversity of America's film heritage, thus increasing public awareness of the richness of American cinema and the need for its preservation.

The National Film Preservation Act of 1996 extended the life of the film registry for seven more years and established the National Film Preservation Foundation to raise private funds for film preservation. At the press conference, the Librarian announced that film director Martin Scorsese had made the first contribution to the foundation, a generous gift of $25,000.

The Librarian chose the films for this year after evaluating more than 1,000 titles nominated by the public, and discussions with the distinguished members and alternates of his advisory body, the National Film Preservation Board, whom the Librarian consults both on registry film selection and national film preservation policy. Noting that "this selection process should not be seen as 'The Kennedy Center Honors,'" Dr. Billington stressed that "the films we choose are not necessarily the 'best' American films ever made nor the most famous. But they are films that continue to have enduring cultural, historical or aesthetic significance."

The Library is leading a national effort to save America's film heritage, an effort that the Librarian said "is not a moment too soon."

"Despite valiant efforts by archives such as the Library of Congress, the UCLA Film and Television Archive, the Museum of Modern Art, the mo-



Clint Eastwood in "The Outlaw Josey Wales"

Joan Crawford, Ann Blythe and Eve Arden starred in the '40s melodrama "Mildred Pierce."

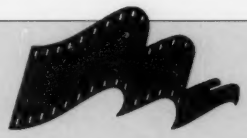
tion picture industry and others," he said, "50 percent of films produced before 1950 and at least 90 percent made before 1920 have disappeared forever."

A traveling program of 36 National Film Registry selections is touring the nation with stops planned for Seattle, Washington (Dec.12-19); Boise, Idaho (Jan. 23-27, 1997); and Honolulu (Feb. 20-23). Additional dates will be announced as they are confirmed. The tour, which has played to enthusiastic audiences in more than 10 states, is funded by the James Madison Council, the Library's private sector advisory board. The Film Foundation, a group of leading film directors committed to film preservation, and Turner Classic Movies have provided additional support.

For each title named to the registry, the Library of Congress works to ensure that the film is preserved for all time, either through the Library's own ongoing massive motion picture preservation program at Dayton, Ohio, or via collaborative ventures with other archives, motion picture studios, and independent filmmakers. The Library of Congress contains one of the largest collections of film and television in the world, from the earliest surviving copyrighted motion picture to the latest feature releases.

—Craig D'Ooge

Craig D'Ooge is media director in the Public Affairs Office.



Films Selected to The National Film Registry Library of Congress—1996

The Awful Truth (1937)
Broken Blossoms (1919)
The Deer Hunter (1978)
Destry Rides Again (1939)
Flash Gordon serial (1936)
The Forgotten Frontier (1931)
Frank Film (1973)
The Graduate (1967)
The Heiress (1949)
The Jazz Singer (1927)
Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter (1980)
M*A*S*H (1970)
Mildred Pierce (1945)
The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976)
The Producers (1968)
Pull My Daisy (1959)
Road to Morocco (1942)
She Done Him Wrong (1933)
Shock Corridor (1963)
Show Boat (1936)
The Thief of Bagdad (1924)
To Be or Not To Be (1942)
Topaz (1943-45) *(home movie footage taken at Japanese American Internment Camp, the Topaz War Relocation Authority Center)*
Verbena Tragica (1939)
Woodstock (1970)

"The Heiress," with Ralph Richardson, Montgomery Clift, Olivia de Havilland and Miram Hopkins, is also slated for preservation by the registry.

Exploring New Tools for Learning

Library's Internet Resources on Display at Conference

In the not-too-distant past, schoolchildren learned their lessons from their teachers and textbooks. (Aside from an occasional movie or television program, technology played little part.) Today, however, a growing number of students and teachers are gaining access to the Internet — and a new tool for learning.

This revolution was apparent at the 76th Annual Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) — with its theme "Empowering Young Citizens: Issues and Challenges." Held Nov. 22-25 in Washington, the conference attracted more than 5,000 social studies educators worldwide. They came to attend innumerable workshops, visit more than 500 exhibitors' booths and discuss the latest teaching innovations.

Past NCSS exhibitions had focused on textbooks and magazine publisher displays. This year's convention included exhibitors' booths with catalogs and brochures describing CD-ROMs, videos, video cassettes and other electronic resources designed to enhance education.

For the first time, the Library was also represented at the NCSS, promoting its World Wide Web offerings, including American Memory digitized historical collections and the Learning Page for teachers and students. The National Digital Library Program's Martha Dexter, project manager, and Lisa Alexander, educational resources specialist, supervised the Library's program for NCSS. Under their direction, the Library had its own exhibition booth and presented a workshop explaining its on-line American history resources. In addition, educational publishers Macmillan/McGraw-Hill and Glencoe/McGraw-Hill co-sponsored with the Library a reception at the Great Hall in the Jefferson Building for more than 200 key educators attending the conference.

More than 4,000 people visited the Library's exhibition booth to talk with representatives and view scheduled on-line demonstrations in the exhibit booth. Although the Library's conference-wide workshop was held early Sunday morning, the room was filled to overflowing with social studies teachers and curriculum specialists eager to learn more about the Library.

Using a large-screen monitor, Ms. Dexter demonstrated the Library's on-line initiatives, including American Memory, which offers access to primary source materials of American history from the Library's collections; the on-line "card" catalog; THOMAS, a legislative database;

Yusef El-Amin

Donald Scott, Deputy Librarian of Congress and Martha Dexter of the National Digital Library spoke with teachers attending the reception.

Yusef El-Amin

Steve Dowling, president of educational publishers MacMillan/McGraw-Hill

Yusef El-Amin

Lisa Alexander showed teachers how to access reources on the Library's "Learning Page."

15th Century Bibles Returned To Jefferson Building

The Gutenberg Bible and the Giant Bible of Mainz, two of the most popular and valuable items in the Library, have been returned to permanent display in refurbished cases in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building, which is open to visitors 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

The Gutenberg Bible

Both bibles were created in Mainz, Germany, during the same period in the 15th century. Published in 1453, the Gutenberg Bible was the first book printed with movable metal type. Named for Johann Gutenberg, who is credited with inventing movable metal type, the Library's copy is one of only three perfect vellum copies known to exist. It was purchased from Dr. Otto Vollbehr in 1930 by an act of Congress.

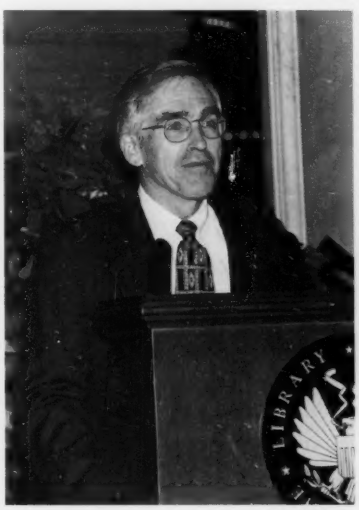
At about the same time as the Gutenberg Bible was produced, in 1453, the Giant Bible of Mainz was transcribed by hand in the same city. This Bible is displayed across from the Gutenberg Bible to illustrate the relationship between the tradition of hand-lettering and printing and to show how the layout of the printed book was influenced by the manuscript tradition. The late Lessing J. Rosenwald purchased the Giant Bible of Mainz in 1952 and gave it to the Library.

Both Bibles have been placed in refinished mahogany cases with an upgraded preservation system to maintain optimum conditions for their preservation and security.

and the on-line exhibitions.

Ms. Alexander explained how the Library had found user-friendly ways to deliver primary sources to its new audience, K-12 students and teachers, through the Learning Page, accessible from the main home page at http://www.loc.gov/.

Using the Learning Page (on-line since March), Ms. Alexander demonstrated the four options for users. She explained that the "Search Guides" option leads to "pathfinder" indexes, which guide teachers and students through American Memory collections and other Library of Congress resources. The next option, "Learn More About It," provides education-oriented examples, search words and resources for each collection, including "Read More About It" reading lists. This option also contains "Feature Presentations" that tie American Memory collections to current events and the school calendar. The third option is "Activities," which presents individual projects for students. The final option, "Educator's Page," offers classroom lesson ideas for using American Memory and other professional resources.



Yusef El-Amin

David Whiting, senior vice president of Glenco/McGraw Hill also spoke at the conference.

Ms. Alexander urged her audience to try these newly available primary resources for themselves to enhance their teaching lessons.

"I can't wait to get back and use this," a teacher from Arkansas said. A social studies specialist from Texas added, "You've really given me something to work with."

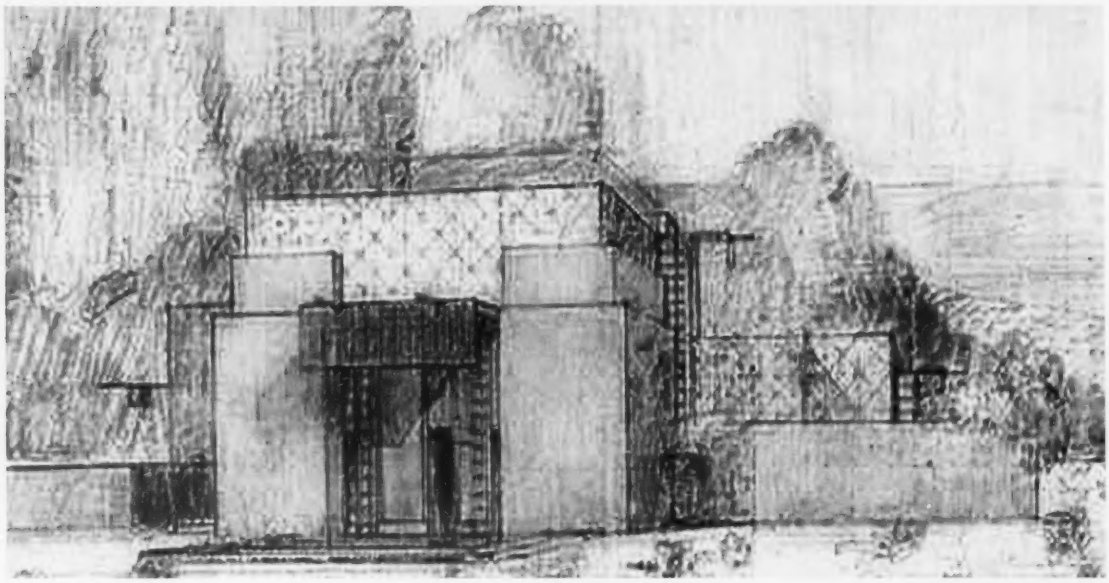
Said another teacher: "The K-12 community is hungry for these materials and is most appreciative of this effort by the Library of Congress. It's nice to see my tax dollars at work."

—*Bernice Tell*

Bernice Tell is a Washington free-lance writer.

A Fusion of Form, Site and Movement

Wright Exhibition Brings Unbuilt Projects to Life



The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

Perspective for the Martin Sachse house, Deep Springs, Ca., graphite and colored pencil on tracing paper, ca. 1924

by John Martin

Such is the importance and influence of Frank Lloyd Wright that an exhibition has been mounted that focuses not on his famous structures themselves, but on the *designs* for projects that were never realized.

"Frank Lloyd Wright: Designs for an American Landscape" highlights five unbuilt projects Wright (1867-1959) designed between 1922 and 1932. It offers a unique view of his aesthetic, one that combined attention to site, native forms and modern materials to create an organic architecture distinctive to America's wide open spaces.

In preparation for nearly six years, the exhibition, organized by the Library, the Canadian Centre for Architecture and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, employs newly discovered material, three-dimensional models and computer simulations to bring Wright's projects to life. According to C. Ford Peatross, curator of the Architecture, Design and Engineering Collection in the Library's Prints and Photographs Division, the idea for the exhibition began in 1986 with a gift of important drawings from Donald D. Walker, a draftsman who worked for Wright at Taliesin, the architect's sprawling residence near Spring Green, Wis. Always a work in progress, Wright used Taliesin to experiment with an architecture that harmonized building and landscape.

Wright's sensitivity to natural conditions appears throughout the exhibition. The Gordon Strong Automobile Objective, for example, a proposed development for Sugarloaf Mountain, Md., reflects Wright's ambitious use of complex geometries to reveal and perfect the chosen site. Designed in 1924-25 as a destination for motorists from Washington and Baltimore, the futuristic tower crowns the truncated top of the mountain, reached by a spiraling roadway that merges into the design of the spiraling building. An ascent by automobile would treat the driver to an ever-changing panorama of the surrounding countryside.

Wright wanted his architecture to reflect the capability of modern technological advances, such as the automobile, which was enabling the population to move farther away from the central cities. He foresaw that technology would make life possible in once uninhabitable terrain, including the desert. The A.M. Johnson Desert Compound, offered in 1924 to the owner of a 1,500-acre site bordering Death Valley, reflects Wright's answer to building in an

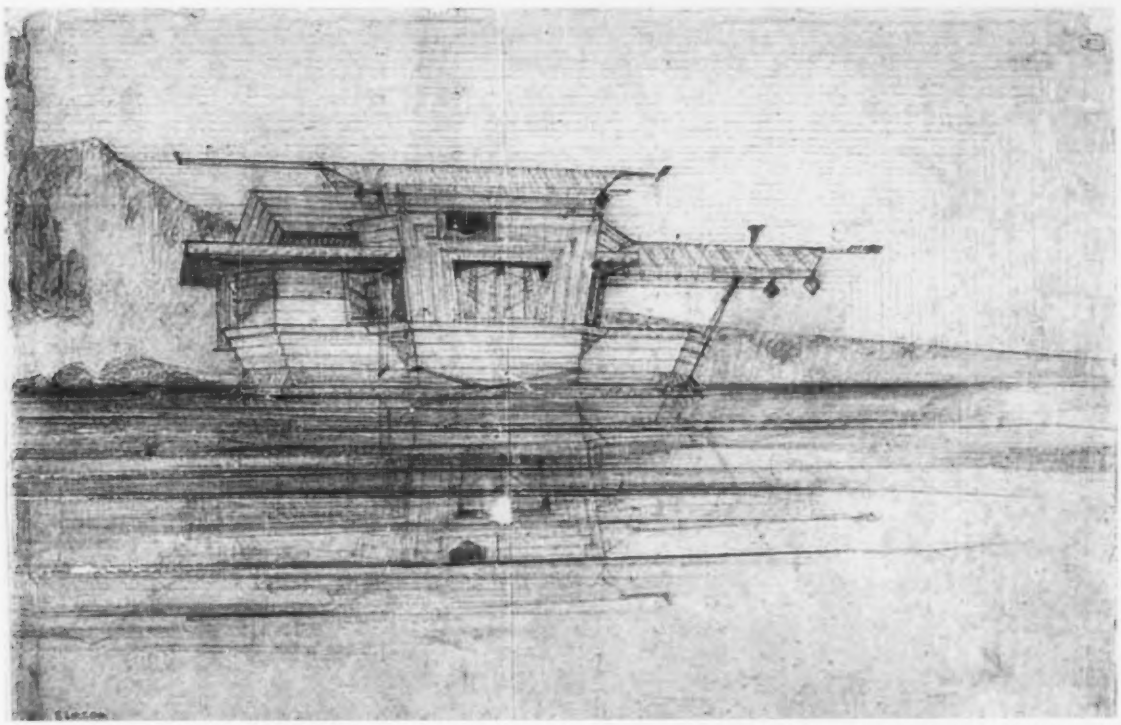
environment that dwarfs human scale. The backbone of the design is a wall of concrete blocks stretching almost 1,000 feet that would join the compound to its surroundings. The approaching road passes through the compound, reaches the main residence and opens on an endless vista of sky, cacti and hills.

This fusion of form, function, site — and movement — displays an aspect of Wright's genius that Mr. Peatross calls "the architect as choreographer." The "Automobile Objective" also shows Wright playing with circular patterns and flowing water, techniques that would reappear in later, and better-known projects, such as the design of Manhattan's Guggenheim Museum and the famous Fallingwater residence outside Pittsburgh.

The presentation also explores Wright's use of innovative designs and new building technologies to achieve what he called an architecture of "integrity," which made use of indigenous materials in forms that would evoke the natural setting. This can be seen, for example, in Wright's conception in 1923 of the Lake Tahoe Summer Colony on Emerald Bay, Calif. Departing from the right-angle rule of traditional Anglo-Palladian architecture, Wright's lodges make extensive use of the triangle and are reminiscent of Native American wigwams. Finished in native wood, the tall, narrow cabins also mimic, in shape and composition, the fir trees that surround them.

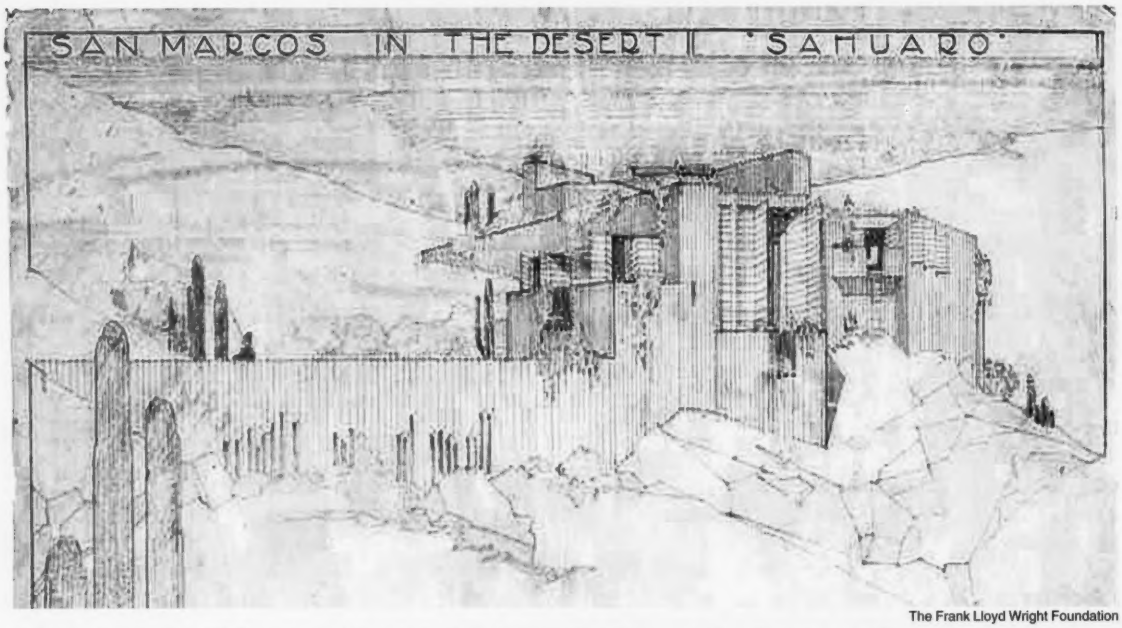
As explained in Wright's *In the Cause of Architecture* (1925), integrity also meant recognizing the potential of machine-age materials to free American architecture from the conventions of another time and place. The exhibition, for example, features textured masonry blocks that Wright designed specifically for projects in Southern California, such as the Doheny Ranch Development in Beverly Hills (1923). Wright intended to use the interlocking concrete blocks to construct an immense residential complex rimming the base of a dry ravine, or arroyo, in the Santa Monica mountains. New construction technology would make this "massiveness" possible. The result would be rooted firmly in pre-Columbian architecture — and in the canyon floor from which it seems to grow.

Yet Wright's proposed solutions to the problems of movement, material and enormous space may represent the road not taken in American architecture. His visionary approaches exceeded the resources of even his



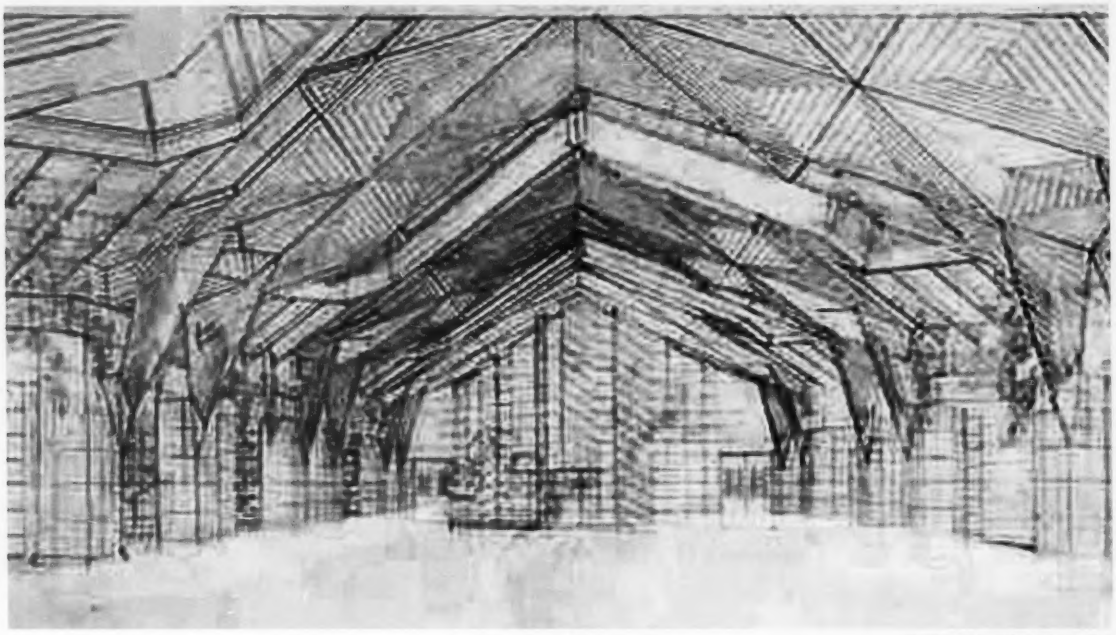
The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

Perspective for the Barge for Two, the Lake Tahoe Summer Colony, graphite and colored pencil on tracing paper, ca. 1923



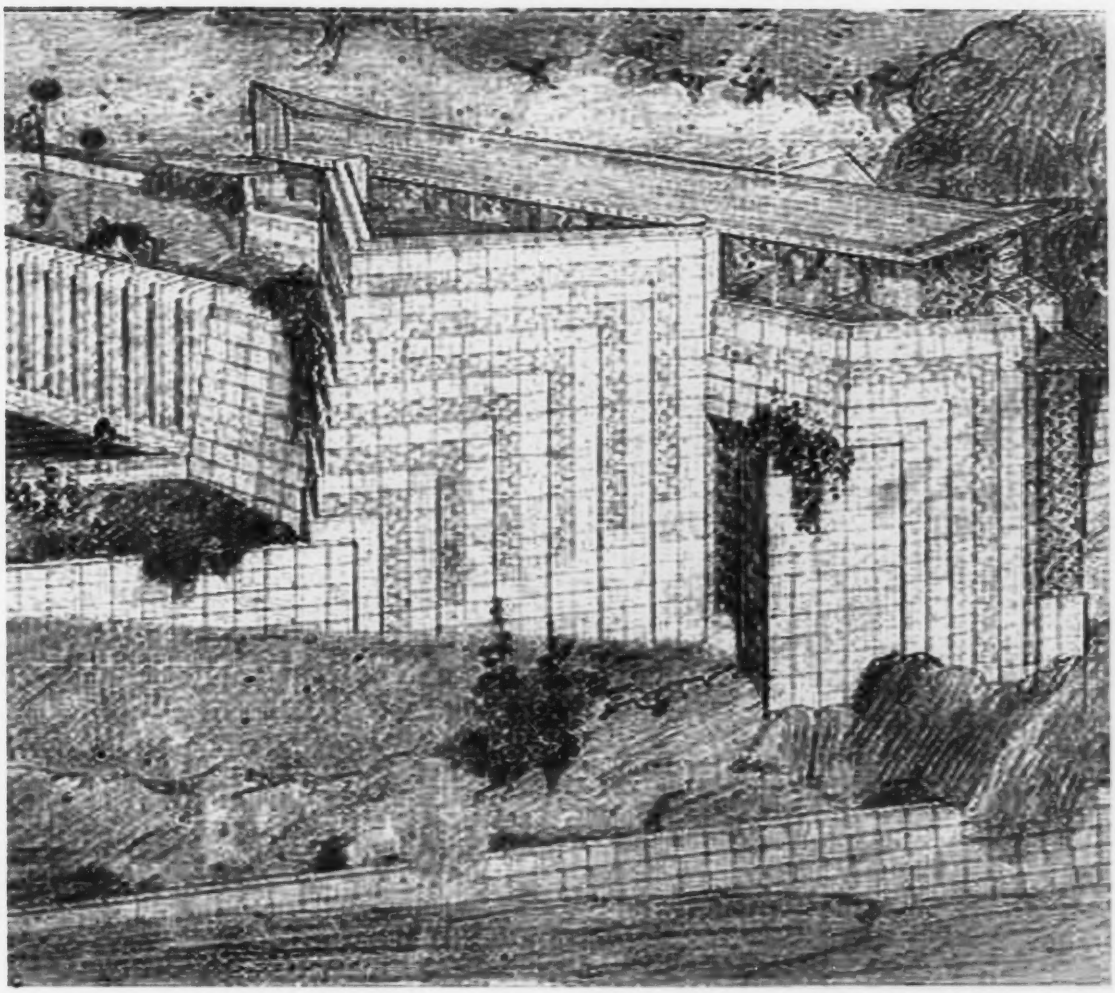
The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

Perspective for the Wellington and Ralph Cudney house, San Marcos in the Desert, graphite and colored pencil on tracing paper, ca. 1928-29



The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

Interior perspective of the dining room for San Marcos in the Desert, graphite and colored pencil on tracing paper, 1928



The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

Perspective with pool for the community playhouse (The Little Dipper), Olive Hill, Los Angeles.

wealthiest clients. Only one of the five featured projects, the San Marcos desert resort, ever neared construction; it crashed, along with the stock market, in 1929.

Wright, a pioneer in the use of "sprawl," would be horrified, Mr. Peatross mused, by its manifestation in today's suburban landscape of strip malls, sodded lawns and cheek-to-jowl colonials. As critic Ada Louise Huxtable observed, "The direction today is full speed backward. ... Younger architects, and some more mature ones too, are retreating bravely into academic convention and nostalgic revivals."

But this apparent counterrevolution only makes Wright's unrealized vision more compelling. As Mr. Peatross notes, conceiving just one of the five projects would secure any architect's reputation. "Wright's achievement," he says, "is not just having broken the mold. He threw all the traditional elements of architecture — the design vocabulary, appropriateness to site, materials and methods of construction — into the air and mastered them."

"Frank Lloyd Wright: Designs for An American Landscape, 1922-1932," will be on view at the Library until Feb. 15, after which it will travel to the Whitney Museum of Art in New York. It may also be "visited" on-line at the Library of Congress's World Wide Web site at http://www.loc.gov/.

—Mr. Martin is a copyright examiner in the Copyright Office.

'Images of the World'

LC and McGraw-Hill Publish Essays About Atlases

A reception was held Nov. 15 in the Montpelier Room to celebrate the joint publication by the Library and McGraw-Hill of "Images of the World: The Atlas Through History."

The editors are John Wolter, former chief of the Library's Geography and Map Division, and Ronald Grim, cartographic history specialist in the division.

At the reception, Ralph Ehrenberg, division chief, described the book as the "first truly international effort to explore the development of the atlas on a worldwide basis."

"Images of the World" tracks the atlas and examines its role in history from the pre-Gutenberg days — when the atlas was a handmade object commissioned by royalty and merchant princes —to its interactive, digitized present. The book consists of 15 essays by an international group of scholars and 196 illustrations.

The basis for the book was an international symposium held in conjunction with the Library's 1984 exhibition on the history of the atlas. The symposium, also named "Im-

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Jim Higgins

McGraw-Hill publisher Sybil Parker chats with John Wolter (left), the Library's former chief of the Geography and Map Division, and Ronald Grim (right), cartographic history specialist of the division, at the Nov. 15 reception.

Jim Higgins

Dana Pratt (left), former director of the Library's Publishing Office, and Sybil Parker listen to John Wolter.

Jim Higgins

Enjoying the refreshments are three of the 15 authors of essays featured in "Images of the World" (from left); Michael P. Conzen of the University of Chicago; Walter W. Ristow, former chief of the Geography and Map Division; and Mark Monmonier of Syracuse University.

A Commitment to Congress

Ernest Griffith Was Architect of Today's CRS

When he was in his 70s, Ernest Griffith spent much of his time scaling mountain peaks in Alaska. Not satisfied with attaining these lofty heights, he went on, in his 80s and 90s, to tackle the Cascades in Washington.

"Every summer, he'd climb a mountain," recalled Charles Goodrum, one of many Library of Congress staffers who worked under Mr. Griffith in what was then called the Legislative Reference Service. "And he didn't stop until he'd checked off every mountain on this continent and many in Europe."

To many who knew Mr. Griffith, these feats illustrate perfectly the energy and perseverance he brought to his impressive history of precedent-setting service in academia and government.

Mr. Griffith assumed the post of director of the Library's newly formed Legislative Reference Service (now called Congressional Research Service) in 1940 at the behest of Congress. He held this post for 18 years, masterminding its growth as a vital conduit of information and expert analysis for members of Congress and their staffs.

The service's role can best be summed up in an excerpt from the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Appropriation Act of 1915: "to employ competent persons to gather, classify and make available ... [pertinent] data for or bearing upon legislation, and to render such data serviceable to Congress and committees and members thereof." After retiring from the Legislative Reference Service (LRS), Mr. Griffith returned to American University, where he had served as an educator and administrator before coming to the Library. In the fall of 1958, he became the first dean of the University's School of International Service.

In August 1958 members of Congress lined up on the floor of the House and Senate to praise his achievements in founding and nurturing LRS. Former Rep. Omar T. Burleson (D-Texas) saluted the honoree for establishing LRS, which included a "consulting service" for members, consisting of experts in many fields who were qualified to offer expert information and history on specific issues facing Congress.

Ernest Griffith in a 1958 photo

In honoring Mr. Griffith by name, Congress recognized his ability to spearhead the implementation of the 1946 Legislative Reorganization Act. This act established the Legislative Reference Service as a separate department within the Library, increased the appropriations for the service and allowed LRS to hire experts on many issues from the government and beyond to inform on a broad range of legislative issues.

"Until the end of World War II, LRS was strictly a legal unit, designed to track and provide information on laws and the legislative progress of bills," explained Charles Goodrum, who served as assistant director and research coordinator of the Congressional Research Service from 1950 to 1980. He referred to the legislators' concern over their heavy dependence on information sources provided by — and, therefore, ostensibly primarily loyal to — the Executive Branch. "The members wanted to free themselves from the influence of these experts, from the government bureaus in town and the influence of the lobbyists," he explained. "They wanted to bring in their own collection of experts — well-informed sources they could trust and call on at any time for help."

As a result, Mr. Griffith worked to recruit specialists in Social Security, transportation, tax issues and other key areas from state government, other federal agencies and universities. In all, 30 distinct specialties were represented. Many were lured to LRS by relatively the high salaries that the 1946 Congressional Reorganization Act authorized the service to pay. More than one prestigious new employee brought entire staffs and other experts to join LRS.

"The service's policy was to offer congressional requesters a huge amount of expert, well-balanced information, all of the pros and cons on every issue," Mr. Goodrum said. "If someone wanted to know what it would take to build an interstate highway system, LRS could tell them how many miles the road network would cover, where it would go and how much money the project would cost."

He added that the LRS director viewed the responsibility to provide expert, balanced information to Congress not as a job but as a patriotic and moral mission. "Mr. Griffith was a vigorous Methodist minister," Mr. Goodrum pointed out. "He believed passionately that the executive branch should not dominate government, as it did at that time, but that all three branches should have equal influence."

Clearly, the director viewed the pro-

vision of complete, accurate and balanced information to Congress as an essential tool and as a crucial means of helping the body achieve this parity. In an Aug. 3, 1958, *Washington Post* article, Mr. Griffith said, "I think I am proudest of the fact that we have operated independently of the executive branch in a technical age.

"In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Congress was becoming more and more dependent on the executive for its know-how," the outgoing director continued. "What we have done is make possible the intelligent functioning of the legislative branch without reliance on the executive arm or special interests."

He also broke new ground by creating a new and expanded role for LRS, one that Congress came to count on heavily, as it continues to do today. Under Mr. Griffith, LRS undertook to help members respond to constituents' requests for information on legislative issues, government programs and even current events of concern to members and the electorate. According to the *Washington Post* article, in 1958 the service responded to almost 70,000 questions. Mr. Goodrum recalled the number of congressional requests during his tenure at the Library growing quickly, from "500 to 1,500 to 2,000 per day."

This increase in demand for information caused the service to mushroom. The *Post* reported that by its 18th year in existence, "Griffith [had] seen the staff grow from 40 to 200 and the annual budget increase from $9,500 to $1,300,000. And in that time the number of requests [had] tripled." Today, in its 82nd year, the Congressional Research Service (as LRS was renamed in 1970), responds to almost 600,000 requests.

The LRS director viewed the responsibility to provide expert, balanced information to Congress not as a job but as a patriotic and moral mission.

A brief overview of his career shows that Mr. Griffith was highly qualified to carry out LRS's fledgling mission. After receiving an A.B. degree at Hamilton College, he was appointed a Rhodes scholar and received his Ph.D. degree from Oxford University. He served as associate professor of political science at Syracuse University, followed by a stint as visiting professor at Harvard University. He then returned to Syracuse to become a dean and taught government. Mr. Griffith arrived at the Library in 1940, after having served as dean of American University's graduate school since 1935, where he had also taught political science.

Also a published author, Mr. Griffith wrote several books on government, including *The Modern Government in Action* (1942), *Congress: Its Contemporary Role* (1951) and *The American System of Government* (1953). He served as editor and co-author of *Research in Political Science* (1948) and co-editor of the *Congressional Anthology* (1955). He retired from the Library on Sept. 15, 1958.

Of his former supervisor's role in LRS, Mr. Goodrum recalled the director's impressive activism that set into motion the service's decades-long evolution from "a small research unit" into its current "vigorous role in the legislative branch." He credits Mr. Griffith for laying an essential and unshakable foundation for the service's essential contributions to Congress, an achievement that continues to win praise from members long after its architect had left the scene. "Mr. Griffith built LRS into an organization that Congress has come to trust and rely on wholeheartedly for its accuracy and objectivity," Mr. Goodrum noted. "The organization he built has strengthened the legislative branch enormously.

"I think it is important to note the role that 'service' plays in the life of Ernest Griffith," said Daniel P. Mulhollan, current director of CRS. "To serve the public good has been a fundamental purpose that Ernest Griffith has continually called us to: service to the Congress and to the nation."

—Barbara Bryant

Ms. Bryant is a Washington free-lance writer.

Curran

Cont'd from page 448

— senior adviser for program planning and evaluation — a position he will hold until Jan. 3, 1997.

Dr. Billington formally presented Mr. Curran with the Distinguished Service Award and noted his "unwavering dedication to the Library," his integrity and the depth of his experience.

—Bernice Tell

Ms. Tell is a Washington free-lance writer.

Atlas

Cont'd from page 458

ages of the World," was organized by Mr. Wolter. It was cosponsored by the Center for the Book and the Geography and Map Division.

"The book is now out and we're thrilled about it," said John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, during the reception. "But I guess some of the lessons include persistence, stick-to-itiveness, longevity, carefulness in editing and just plain good luck to run into McGraw-Hill."

McGraw-Hill's Sybil Parker, publisher for technical reference and new media, also spoke at the reception. When she had first considered the book and read a sample chapter, she told the audience, she was "really impressed beyond anything I had been involved with since I've been in publishing." Ms. Parker said she looked forward to a long relationship with the Library.

The book sells for $59.95 in the Library of Congress Sales Shop.

News from the Center for the Book

1997 'Literary Companion' Calendars Published

Samuel Johnson once declared that "the chief glory of every people arises from its authors."

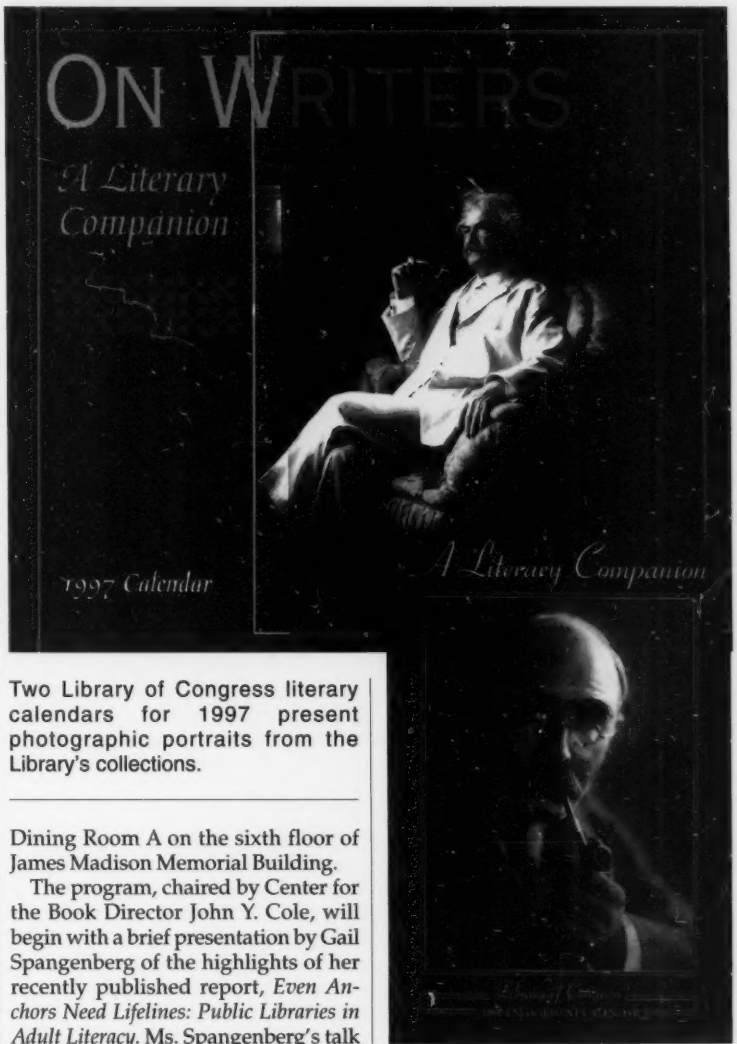
Two Library of Congress literary calendars for 1997 published by Pomegranate Calendars & Books present photographic portraits from the Library's collections of more than 60 authors, plus biographical profiles, anecdotes, dates and quotations that provide vivid glimpses of the authors' lives and achievements.

In his introduction to the calendars, Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole describes how the Library of Congress celebrates literature — through its collections, readings, projects, publications, exhibitions and even on the walls and ceilings of the Jefferson Building, which he calls "an incomparable Temple of the Book."

A Literary Companion, a 1997 engagement calendar, was compiled by Margaret E. Wagner of the Library's Publishing Office. She and free-lance writer Alan Bisbort wrote the captions. The calendar includes a list of reference books containing literary history and sells for $12.95.

On Writers: A Literary Companion, a 1997 wall calendar, was also compiled by Ms. Wagner and Mr. Bisbort, who also prepared the short biographical essays about the 12 featured authors: Edith Wharton, Jean Genet, Susan Sontag, Geoffrey Chaucer, Hannah Arendt, H.L.Mencken, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Ralph Ellison, Leo Tolstoy, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Toni Morrison and Mark Twain.

Both calendars are available in bookstores around the country and in the Library of Congress Sales Shop.

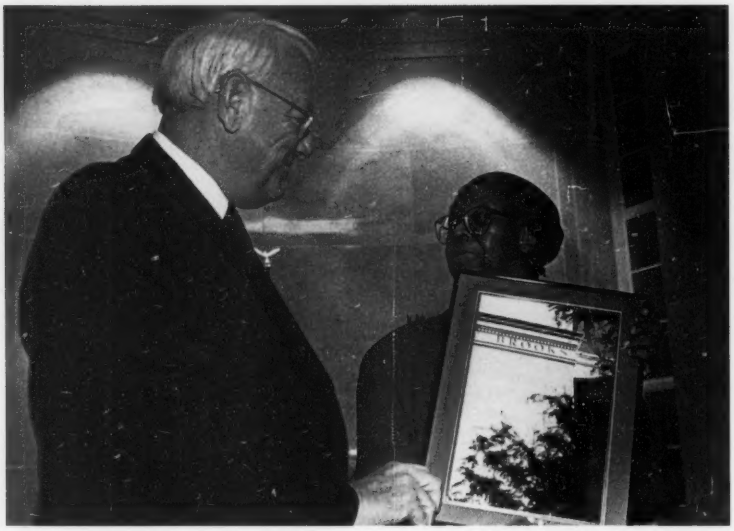


Two Library of Congress literary calendars for 1997 present photographic portraits from the Library's collections.

☐ **Literacy and Public Libraries to Be Discussed at Forum.** On Jan. 17 the Center for the Book and the National Center on Adult Literacy will sponsor a forum on "Public Libraries in Adult Literacy: The Next Steps." It will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in Dining Room A on the sixth floor of James Madison Memorial Building.

The program, chaired by Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole, will begin with a brief presentation by Gail Spangenberg of the highlights of her recently published report, *Even Anchors Need Lifelines: Public Libraries in Adult Literacy.* Ms. Spangenberg's talk will be followed by comments from speakers who represent different segments of the literacy and library communities, including Bridget L. Lamont, director, Illinois State Library; Maggie G. Gaines, director, Baltimore City Literacy Corp.; and Daniel A. Wagner, director, National Center on Adult Literacy. The new American Library Association-Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund initiative on libraries and adult literacy will also be discussed.

Even Anchors Need Lifelines, a 144-page report, was sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress with additional funding provided by the National Institute for Lit-



Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian George Ryan presents Gwendolyn Brooks with a photograph of her name which is on the exterior frieze of the Illinois State Library Building.

eracy, Harold W. McGraw Jr., McGraw-Hill Cos. and the American Library Association.

Space is limited at the Jan. 17 Literacy Policy Forum, and reservations are required. For inquiries about the forum or to obtain a copy of *Even Anchors Need Guidelines*, write or call the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington, DC 20540-4920, telephone (202) 707-5221, fax (202) 707-0269.

☐ **Colorado Announces Children's Book Festival.** The Colorado Center for the Book will sponsor the first Rocky Mountain Children's Book Festival at Denver's Currigan Exhibition Hall on April 25-26. A celebration of the written and spoken word for children of all ages, the festival will explore all aspects of reading through programs, products and services aimed at both English- and Spanish-speaking children and families. More than 100 presentations are planned, along with presentations of nationally known children's and young adult writers, book talks, book arts demonstrations, costumed characters, workshops for teachers and two special features: The BrainQuest Challenge for schools and the Computer Playground.

More than 30,000 people attended the fourth annual Rocky Mountain Book Festival at Currigan Exhibition Hall on Oct. 5-6. A project of the Colorado Center for the Book, the festival presented more than 100 authors; panel discussions; exhibits; storytellers; literary chautauquans, who portrayed F. Scott Fitzgerald, Zora Neale Hurston, Thomas Jefferson, James Joyce, Anne Sexton, Edith Wharton and Walt Whitman; a hands-on Magnetic Poetry Wall; a computer software playground; and free therapy "for those who are book stuck." Featured speakers included novelist E. Annie Proulx, biologist and science writer Stephen Jay Gould and David Quammen, author of *Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions* (Scribner, 1996). For information, contact the Colorado Center for the Book, 2123 Downing St., Denver, CO 80205; telephone (303) 839-8320, fax (303) 839-8319.

☐ **Iilinois Authors Honored Illinois Poet Laureate** (who served as the Library of Congress's consultant in poetry in 1985-86) was guest of honor on Oct. 19 in Springfield at the Second Annual Illinois Authors Book Fair.

More than 80 Illinois authors from throughout the state participated in the fair, which was sponsored by the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book. Ameritech, the Illinois Humanities Council and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress were among the additional supporters. Proceeds from each year's fair are used to purchase books for the Illinois Authors Room in the state library.

Ms. Brooks, who won the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 1950 and has been Illinois State Poet Laureate since 1968, spoke at a gala literary dinner on Oct. 18 and the next day read two poems on the steps of the state library to officially open the fair. One of 35 authors with Illinois roots whose name appears on the exterior frieze of the state library building, Ms. Brooks spoke at the library's dedication six years ago.

On Oct. 17 and 18, many of the authors participating in the fair visited schools in the Springfield area. Writers workshops on Oct. 18 discussed the following genres: children's books, the novel, short fiction, mystery writing and poetry. Center for the Book Program Officer Maurvene D. Williams presented remarks at the literary dinner, paying tribute to Illinois's rich literary heritage and briefly describing how the national center works with state centers to promote America's literary heritage.

Events on Oct. 19 included poetry and literary readings, panel discussions, exhibits, storytelling, actors portraying historic Illinois authors and author signings. "The Magic of Children's Book Illustration," an exhibit of original children's book illustrations by 11 Illinois authors and illustrators, was an especially popular feature. Young readers also enjoyed meeting costumed characters from *The Wizard of Oz*, who mingled with the crowd all day.

For further information, contact the Illinois Center for the Book, Illinois State Library, 300 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701; telephone (217) 524-8835.

Library's James Hutson Testifies at Hearing

Role of Swiss Banks During World War II Explored

The fate of the assets of victims of Nazism deposited in Swiss banks has been called the "final chapter of the history of the Second World War and the Holocaust."

On Dec. 11 the House Banking Committee, chaired by Rep. James Leach (R-Iowa), held hearings on this issue. One of the 12 witnesses appearing before the Committee was James H. Hutson, chief of the Library's Manuscript Division. Mr. Hutson was on the final panel with two other historians. Mr. Hutson, who was the curator of the library's "Sister Republics" exhibition in 1991, which explored Swiss-American relations from 1776 until the present, has written on issues relating to the history of Switzerland and the United States.

As the hearings made clear, many people used neutral Switzerland as a safe haven for their property before and during World War II. The Nazi government deposited in the Swiss National Bank gold looted from other governments, which the Allies estimated at a minimum of $130 million; the Swiss handed over $58 million of this looted gold in 1946 .

German citizens, including Nazis, transferred large amounts of others' assets to Swiss banks for safekeeping, such as currencies, securities and other paper assets, works of art, jewelry, etc. Estimates of the amount of these "private" assets run as high as $6 billion, although most calculations are considerably lower. At the Washington Conference of May 1946, the Swiss agreed to liquidate these assets and give the Allies one-half of the proceeds; after protracted negotiations the Swiss, in 1952, paid the Allies approximately $34 million as their share of the liquidated private assets.

...in most — but not all — cases of dormant accounts, the original owner is dead and heirs have not come forward.

A third group using Swiss banks as a safe haven were European Jews and others, who, as the threats of Nazism loomed during the 1930s, deposited their assets in banks throughout Switzerland. Most of these people did not survive to claim their assets nor did they leave heirs to inherit them. Thus at the end of World War II there came into being a large class of property, or "heirless assets, in Swiss banks, for which there was no identifiable owner or heir. A related term, "dormant accounts" refers to property in Swiss (or other banks) for which no claimant has come forward for a long time; in most — but not all — cases of dormant accounts, the original owner is dead and heirs have not come forward.

These disappointing results led to the May 2 establishment, by the Swiss Bankers Association, the World Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Restitution Organization, of a so-called Independent Commission of Eminent Persons, chaired by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker. The commission was charged with conducting an audit of all dormant accounts in all Swiss banks. Mr. Volcker, who appeared at the hearings, asserted that his commission had retained the services of three "Big Six" accounting firms that pledged to assign to the project individuals expert in "forensic" accounting.

Mr. Volcker and Georg Krayer, chairman of the Swiss Bankers Association, who also addressed the hearings, warned against premature optimism on behalf of Holocaust victims' heirs because of the difficulties of establishing that these heirs were actual owners of the accounts. Lack of documentation — Nazi extermination camps did not, of course, issue death certificates — the disappearance of records in the general chaos of World War II, the use of numbered accounts, pseudonyms and third parties (some of whom, Mr. Volcker observed, may have been corrupt) were stressed, cautions which became all the more poignant when two daughters of Holocaust victims testified about their difficulties prying assets loose from Swiss banks which they attributed more to a lack of goodwill than to a lack of proper credentials.

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, recommended to Mr. Volcker and others that they work quickly, in view of the large number of Holocaust claimants who are elderly. The tension between those urging haste and those urging deliberation, lest the credibility of the investigations be compromised by superficiality, was palpable throughout the hearings.

Mr. Volcker concluded his testimony by announcing that his commission hoped to issue a final report in the summer of 1998. Neither Mr. Volcker nor any other participant was prepared to estimate how much money in Swiss dormant accounts might still be due to Holocaust victims and their heirs. Mr. Bronfman drew a contrast between how much money might now be in the accounts and how much was originally deposited in them, the latter sum being very large, in his opinion.

A Swiss envoy, Ambassador Thomas Borer, announced during the hearings that his government had decided to appoint, no later than Dec. 13, an Independent Commission of Experts who will "conduct a comprehensive investigation into all aspects of Switzerland's role as a financial center during and around the war years and its relations with Nazi Germany." The commission, to be composed of Swiss and foreign historians and judges, will have sweeping powers, including ac-

cess to all banks records. It will be expected to issue a final report in two to three years. Mr. Borer stressed his government's intention to determine the full truth as soon as possible and to see that Holocaust victims received their just due, again as soon as possible.

The historians' panel, including Mr. Hutson; Arthur Smith, professor of history emeritus at UCLA; and Jacques Picard of the Swiss College of Technology at Bienne, concluded the hearings and fielded queries from the members on various questions of historical fact and interpretation.

Mr. Hutson's statement, which follows, was entered into the record and provides a historical context for the issues discussed at the hearing.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is James Hutson. I am the chief of the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

In 1991 I wrote a short book on the history of Swiss-American relations and, more recently, a study of the American bombing of Switzerland during the Second World War, which prepared me for the complexity of the issues we are examining today. Virtually everything about the American bombing of Switzerland is controversial. The American and Swiss governments disagreed on the number of attacks — we admitted to 41, they claimed 49 — and the amount of monetary damage inflicted. Competent witnesses on both sides even disagreed over whether the skies were clear or cloudy during the most lethal American attack, that on Schaffhausen on April 1, 1944. New information became available, however, principally through the declassification of American military records, and clarified many dark corners of the story. Let us hope that we have the same good fortune as a mass of fresh documentation surfaces about the Swiss-German relations before and during World War II and about the disposition of the assets of Holocaust victims in Switzerland.

"There is ample goodwill on all sides and as a historian I am encouraged to believe that our understanding of the problems can be deepened."

—James Hutson

The assets of the Holocaust victims came to the attention of the Allied governments in the context of German assets held in neutral countries. In July 1944, at the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference, the Allied governments asserted that they could not be indifferent to the existence of German assets in neutral countries and could not let these assets enjoy a safe haven in neutral bank vaults from which they might be collected after the war by their German owners and used to fund a resurgence of German military power.

Toward the end of 1944, the American government established its own safe haven program, whose objective was to identify German assets in neutral counties and pressure the neutrals to deny Germans access to those assets. Switzerland, as the largest holder of German assets, was the object of intense pressure from American officials trying to implement the safe haven program.

In October 1945 the Allied Military Government in Germany laid legal claim to German assets in neutral countries, a claim that Switzerland rejected as based on force, not law. Assuming that German assets in neutral countries would be liquidated and put at the disposal of authorities charged with the reconstruction of Europe, the Paris Reparations Conference in December 1945 resolved that $25 million of the liquidated German assets should be devoted to the resuscitation and resettlement of European Jewry. This conference also recommended that assets of Holocaust victims in neutral banks should be turned over to the Allies to relieve the suffering of the Jews. Here, for the first time, an official body addressed itself to the questions of the assets of Holocaust victims in Swiss banks.

At a conference in Washington in May 1946, the Allies and Switzerland negotiated several outstanding issues. One was the question of gold, looted by the Germans from occupied countries and sold to the Swiss National Bank. Although we today have what I regard as reliable figures on how much gold the German Reichsbank sold to the Swiss National Bank, we are not certain how much of this gold was looted, because in common with other European central banks, the Reichsbank underreported its gold reserves in the 1930s, thus creating difficulties estimating how much of the gold it sold to the Swiss came from its own coffers and how much was stolen.

At the Washington Conference the Swiss and the Allies disagreed about how much stolen gold the Swiss had purchased; the Allies finally agreed to receive from the Swiss $58 million, less than half of what they estimated that the Swiss had illicitly bought. At the Washington Conference there was also a dispute about the value of private German assets held in Switzerland. Allied estimates ran three times as high as those of the Swiss negotiators. It was agreed that the Swiss would liquidate German assets and give the Allies one-half of the proceeds.

As an adjunct to the main Washington Agreement, the Allies and the Swiss exchanged letters in which the existence of assets of Holocaust victims in Swiss banks was mentioned and the Swiss agreed to consider turning these over to relief authorities, if there were no legitimate claimants. It should be stressed that the Allies, to my knowledge, never followed up on this exchange with the Swiss and appear to have immediately lost interest in the subject. Perhaps new documentation will be discovered that will give us a better understanding of Allied inaction on this matter.

The initiative in seeking the restitution of the assets of Holocaust victims now fell to Swiss Jewish and other

Understanding Nuremberg

Library and Holocaust Museum Host Symposium

An international group of historians, legal scholars, former prosecutors, and interested members of the public met at the Library and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on Nov. 13 and 14 for a symposium on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Nuremberg war-crimes trials.

"Nuremberg and Its Impact: 50 Years Later" was sponsored by the Museum's Research Institute and the Library's Manuscript Division and Office of Scholarly Programs.

Sybil Milton of the Research Institute and David Wigdor, assistant chief of the Manuscript Division, were the conference organizers. Proceedings on the first day were held in the Library's Mumford Room, while the Museum's Meyerhoff Auditorium was the site of the meeting's concluding sessions. The event was made possible through generous grants from Mrs. Ruth Meltzer of Philadelphia and members of the Library's Madison Council.

The conference was seen as an opportunity to reflect on the significance of the Nuremberg trials experience; to examine the legal and political aspects of the International Military Tribunal (IMT) and subsequent American trials at Nuremberg; to explore the lasting value of their precedent-setting program for dealing with Nazi war criminals; to consider the subsequent war crimes trials in Germany, Austria and Japan; and to weigh the prospects for contemporary war crimes trials related to the conflicts in Bosnia and Rwanda. Recent American legal proceedings and the implications of the Nuremberg principles for contemporary politics and culture were also addressed. Plans are under way to publish the conference papers.

William Jackson, a New York lawyer and son of Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, presided over the opening session. He had served as personal assistant to his father after President Truman appointed Justice Jackson to be the U.S. chief counsel before the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. Justice Jackson, the principle organizer of the trials of the surviving Nazi hierarchy at Nuremberg in 1945, eloquently opened the prosecution's case before the world. His papers are in the Library's Manuscript Division.

The first session dealt with the Nuremberg trials as a historical event On the question of What has Nuremberg accomplished? Mr. Jackson said, "Nuremberg was a warning to future tyrants."

Because laws are not self-enforcing, he said, they are frequently subject to nonlegal considerations. For example, the international response to several postwar crimes has allowed politics to interfere with justice. The establishment of a permanent international criminal court, one of the initiatives born of Nuremberg, would make it easier for law and justice to overcome such barriers. Mr. Jackson noted how the effort to establish such a court continues today.

The other legacy of Nuremberg,

Jewish organizations who began a long series of dialogues with the Swiss government about the problem. In the meantime the Swiss in 1949 concluded a controversial agreement with the Polish government that appeared to convert the assets of Polish Holocaust victims into payments to Swiss citizens as compensation for property expropriated by the Communist government in Poland. This episode and a somewhat similar agreement concluded by the Swiss with Hungary in the following year are still imperfectly understood and are the subject of intense research even as we speak, but at least this much has been recently learned: the Swiss made no immediate payment to the Poles, and in fact no substantial sum of money changed hands until 1975, here again under circumstances that are not now fully understood.

As a result of the continuing dialogue between Jewish organizations and the Swiss government, the Swiss passed a law in 1962 compelling their citizens under the penalty of legal action to report any heirless assets existing in Swiss hands that might belong to Holocaust victims. Assets to the value of 10 million Swiss francs were located by 1964, and 8 million Swiss francs were returned to heirs of Holocaust victims, many of whom were traced by the Swiss authorities using missing persons organizations and the Red Cross. The remaining 2 million Swiss francs were placed in an heirless assets fund that was eventually given to Jewish and other humanitarian organizations in Switzerland.

This hasty sketch brings us to the present moment when the Swiss are again searching, in cooperation with the World Jewish Congress and Chairman Volcker and his investigators, for dormant assets of Holocaust victims. All aspects of the problem before us, as I have indicated, are extremely complex and controversial; some are still not well understood. But there is ample reason to believe that through the intensive research now going on in both the United States and Switzerland we will arrive at a better understanding of these painful and often obscure issues. I think there is ample goodwill on all sides and as a historian I am encouraged to believe that our understanding of the problems can be deepened. This will take time, however, and there may be a need for additional hearings to assess the new information that will surely become available on both sides of the Atlantic.

Nuremberg stands as a post mortem examination of how the erosion of simple human freedoms eventually led to the collapse of a tyrannical regime.

according to Mr. Jackson, was the accumulation of irrefutable documentary evidence. This huge body of material recorded not only the extent of Nazi criminality, but also in effect constituted a case study in the rise and fall of a brutal totalitarian state. Through this amassed testimony, Nuremberg stands as a post mortem examination of how the erosion of simple human freedoms eventually led to the collapse of a tyrannical regime. "The Nuremberg trial put these things on the wall, for the oppressor and the oppressed to read," Mr. Jackson declared.

Whitney R. Harris, former assistant trial counsel before the IMT at Nuremberg, and Benjamin B. Ferencz, former chief prosecutor of the Einsatzgruppen case before the U.S. Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, offered moving recollections of their growing awareness of the full horror of the record before them and their subsequent experience in prosecuting those accused of was crimes.

Both agreed that as young lawyers, the experience had been highly formative in their later careers. Mr. Harris recalled in detail Justice Jackson's skill in dealing with the many complex legal, political, and moral questions raised by the effort of the Allies to indict the initial 24 defendants, 22 of whom were later tried by the IMT. Sometimes, Mr. Harris recalled, the unfolding of the prosecution's case depended on luck in addition to legal skill. For example, when a defense lawyer called a former camp commander of Auschwitz to the witness stand, the prosecution found it was suddenly presented with an unexpected opportunity to have testimony about the camp and its nefarious purposes inserted into the trial record.

Mr. Ferencz pointed out that the charter of the IMT provided for subsequent trials, and these included the prosection of lesser Nazi officials such as doctors, legal functionaries, industrialists and foreign office staff who were accused of having carried out particular crimes. Mr. Ferencz posed and then answered a list of questions about his Nuremberg experience, recalling his involvement in the prosecution of what had been called the "biggest murder case in human history." Because the court's docket could hold only 22 persons at a time, only 22 were tried in this single case. In their roles as commanders of the special mobile squads assigned to execute civilians behind military lines, the defendants were accused of killing more than 1 million people. The four squads, consisting of some 3,000 men, operated over a period of about two years. Mr. Ferencz recalled the defendants as being intelligent, highly motivated people, "not sadists or fools," but idealistic in their aspirations to create a different world according to their particular scheme — one that included the elimination of who did not fit.

The national trials after Nuremberg were the focus of the first day's afternoon program. Gerald Schwab, a retired foreign service officer with the State Department, moderated the sessions. Before starting, Mr. Schwab, who served as a translator-interpreter at the Nuremberg trials, noted that the distinctive headphone system that supplied simultaneous translations of the trial proceedings, and which used an experimental closed-circuit broadcast system developed by IBM, was later adopted for use by the United Nations. The original Nuremberg headphones are part of the Holocaust Museum's collections, and those worn by defendant Hermann Göring were put on display outside the Museum's Meyerhoff Auditorium.

The Nuremberg trials grew out of an Enlightenment philosophical belief in universally applicable truths and ethical norms.

Mr. Schwab moderated a discussion of the German experience in prosecuting cases against Nazi war criminals. Attitudes toward prosecution became distinctly more favorable in Germany by the late 1970s, with the rise of a new democratic generation and widespread viewing of the television miniseries "Holocaust."

The second day of the conference shifted to the Holocaust Museum and began with a vigorous session chaired by Walter Rockler, a former assistant counsel before the U.S. Military Tribunals at Nuremberg. Mr. Rockler also served as the first director of the Office of Special Investigations of the United States Department of Justice. Allan A. Ryan Jr., another former director of the Office of Special Investigations, enumerated many of the complications of extradition. He noted, for example, that to bring accused persons to justice there must be a second country willing not only to file for extradition but also to follow the difficult process through to prosecution.

Attention then shifted to the Tokyo war crimes trials and developments in international law since Nuremberg. Onuma Yasuaki of the Faculty of Law of the University of Tokyo urged that principles of justice and fairness require all nations to apply the Nuremberg principles. He was followed by Louis Henkin of Columbia University School of Law, who told how international law has changed since the Nuremberg trials. Noting that some progress had been made since Nuremberg. Mr. Henkin lamented that there had been little growth in mankind's capacity to avoid such crimes in the first place. He, like others, advocated that a permanent in-

ternational criminal be established.

The last session of the conference focused on precedents established by the Nuremberg Trials and some of the current practices in international law and policy, moderated by Mr. Ferencz. Rochus Pronk of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of American University detailed current efforts to prosecute, in specially constituted tribunals at the Hague, war criminals associated with conflicts in Bosnia and Rwanda.

In the final address of the conference, "Nuremberg in American Politics and Culture," former CIA Director R. James Woolsey offered an analysis of the philosophical underpinnings of Nuremberg and subsequent history. He noted that the Nuremberg trials grew out of an Enlightenment philosophical belief in universally applicable truths and ethical norms, while many subsequent political movements were informed by vagaries of moral relativism.

Mr. Ferencz's summation of the two days ended the conference on a note of subdued optimism: After failure to establish a system of international accountability in the wake of World War I, the legacy of Nuremberg stood as both a revolutionary step forward and a challenge to humanity.

Two aspects of the conference were particularly noteworthy for co-organizer David Wigdor. "I was impressed by how deeply involved the prosecutors have been in subsequent years, in trying to establish an ongoing significance to the Nuremberg experience," including the instituting of a permanent international criminal court. In addition, by offering an opportunity to a contemporary policymaker like Mr. Woolsey to "stand back and try to make sense and order out of Nuremberg and recent events" this was an occasion for all to think about law and justice, policy and morality. These aspects made "the conference's own contribution that much more significant," he concluded.

—Lester Vogel and Prosser Gifford
Mr. Vogel and Mr. Gifford are in the Office of Scholarly Programs.

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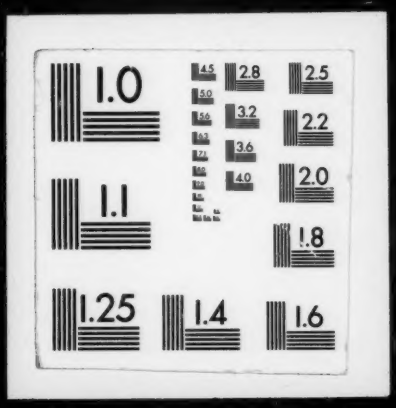
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